

# DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT

## Khartoum, Sudan

The disposition of remains is subject to U.S. law, local laws of the country where the individual died, U.S. and foreign customs requirements, and the foreign country facilities, which are often vastly different from those in the United States. Below is information on Sudanese law and price estimates relating to the disposition of remains. All values are indicated in USD (United States Dollars) but are payable in Sudanese pounds at the prevailing rate, unless otherwise noted. It is suggested that any transfer of funds to pay for burial or other costs be done via a Department of State's Consular Affairs Citizen Services trust account as outlined at

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/while-abroad/sending-money-abroad.html>

### A. **Maximum Period Before Interment**

Sudanese law does not place a time limit for burial, but three days is the reasonable period expected to finalize all proceedings including embalming, coffin arrangements, and subsequent burial or shipping. Sudanese practice is to bury the deceased as soon as possible. Muslims are buried in shrouds and non-Muslims in coffins. There are three storage facilities, which are the government mortuary attached to Bashair Hospital, Alakademy Hospital and Omdurman Hospital. These facilities can store up to 20 bodies. Storage costs \$100.00 per day.

### B. **Embalming**

Embalming must be arranged with the pathologist affiliated with the Ministry of Health. The quality of preparation is adequate, but a mortician should examine the body on arrival in the United States to determine whether additional preparation is required for an open casket funeral. The cost of embalming and related charges is approximately \$3,000.

### C. **Cremation**

Cremation is allowed, but there are no formal facilities available in Sudan for that purpose. The Sudanese Indian community has performed cremations from time to time in

a private facility in Omdurman. Indian tradition is to spread the ashes, rather than place them in an urn; however, for people who wish to have their ashes placed in an urn, this can be arranged with the cemetery administrators. The cost of cremation is approximately \$600.

#### **D. Caskets and Containers**

The Khartoum Teaching Hospital sometimes has caskets adequate for export of remains. The cost of a coffin is approximately \$800. A local carpenter also has been known to make coffins acceptable for international shipment. The cost of one of those coffins may be as much as \$500, but the price varies depending on actual cost for materials and time. Coffins for local interment are available for approximately \$250.

#### **E. Export of Remains**

Local requirements for the export of human remains include:

1. Embalming
2. Transport authorization from the Ministry of External Relations
3. Letter from next of kin authorizing Embassy to make arrangements for shipment of remains.
4. Medical report of death (4 copies)
5. Copy of official death certificate from Sudanese Civil Authorities
6. Mortuary Certificate
7. Medical embalming certificate
8. Customs Clearance
9. Ministry of Health clearance

#### **F. Costs**

For shipping inquiries and prices, please contact the shipping companies below for further information.

### **G. Airfreight**

Average weight of casket and containers required for export of remains is 250 kg.

Airfreight charges to various points in the continental United States are \$8.50 per kg. For shipping inquiries and exact prices, please contact the shipping companies below for further information.

### **H. Exhumation and Shipment**

Non-Sudanese are rarely interred in Sudan; their remains are generally transported out of the country. Exhumation is only permitted once six months have passed since burial. A court order is required before exhumation can occur. Since exhumation is rarely performed in Sudan, there are no established prices for the service. Costs will vary depending on the cemetery.

### **I. Autopsies**

The local authorities are responsible for making findings concerning the cause of death. If it is natural, an autopsy can be performed upon request from the surviving family. If the cause is murder, suicide, or accident, the local authorities will determine whether an autopsy is required. Generally, an autopsy is mandatory when foul play is suspected or known. The autopsy is free of charge.

### **Useful Contacts**

**DISCLAIMER:** The U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms:

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2. Dr. Sabir Makki  
A/Director Mortuary, Khartoum Teaching Hospital

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3. Dr. Hisham Zeinalabdin

Ministry of Health

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4. Dr. Anel Kumar

Omdurman Hospital

Mobile: +249 912 133 722 or +249 922 221 611

5. Mr. Abdelrahim Hamed Mohamed

Casket Maker/Carpenter

Mobile: +249 912 605 500

### **Shipping Companies**

1. Cannata International Co.

General Manager: Paolo Salvatore Cannata

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